MCCALL HATCHERY
ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

McCall Hatchery is designed primarily to produce summer chinook salmon. McCall Hatchery is additionally responsible for a resident fisheries program which includes: the operation of a fish trap at Fish Lake for the collection of westslope cutthroat trout eggs, production of cutthroat and rainbow fry, stocking of high mountain lakes in Regions 1, 2, and 3, and the redistribution of catchable rainbow. Funding for the resident program at McCall Hatchery is provided by Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) from license sales.

HATCHERY IMPROVEMENTS

During July, the Fish Lake trap facility was virtually rebuilt. A third culvert was added under the road to protect against wash-out. The inlet channel to the trap was filled in and replaced with a 12-inch pipe. Water flow to the trap can now be controlled with a Waterman valve. The wooden fish ladder was replaced with a concrete ladder. These new structures should make the operation much more efficient.

SPAWNTAKING OPERATION

Fish Lake is located approximately six miles west of McCall. The trap was installed April 11 with a total of 2,198 westslope cutthroat trout trapped; 1,176 females and 1,022 males.

Spawning operations began on April 28, and continued through May 19. During this period, 1,158 females were spawned. Forty-one of these females were culled and removed from the population because they exhibited rainbow characteristics. Males exhibiting rainbow characteristics were also removed from the population. The 1,117 westslope cutthroat females produced 483,654 eggs, and the 41 culls produced 15,104 eggs for a total of 498,758 green eggs. Eggs collected from the culled broodstock were incubated and reared separately. A summary of spawntaking results is presented in Table 1.

FISH PRODUCTION

Two species of trout were incubated and reared at McCall Hatchery this year; westslope cutthroat trout obtained from Fish Lake and Henrys Lake hybrids received from Henrys Lake Hatchery. A summary of fish production is presented in Table 2.

Table 1. Results of westslope cutthroat trout spawn take, 1989

Species	Females spawned	Eggs collected	Percent eve-um	Average Fecundity
cutthroat	1,117	483,654	92.7	433
cutthroat culls	41	15,104	71.1	368
TOTAL	1,158	498,758		

Table 2. Total production of cutthroat trout fry at McCall Hatchery, 1989.

Species	Eyed eggs received	Fish produced	Percent survival	Pounds produced
westslope cutthroat	**448,480**	311,705	69.5	583
cutthroat culls	10,731	8,000	74.6	14
Henrys Lake cutthroat	63,468	55,279	87.1	225
TOTAL	**522,679**	374,984	71.7	597

Rangen's soft-moist diet was used exclusively for production. A total of 495 pounds were fed to produce 597 pounds of fish, for a conversion of 0.83 at a cost of $414.42. Fish requested and actual production at McCall Hatchery is shown in Table 3.

STOCKING AND TRANSFERS

Transfers

During August, 85,000 westslope cutthroat fry were transferred to Mackay Hatchery. Mackay Hatchery transferred 4,080 sterile cutthroat x rainbow hybrids to McCall Hatchery for stocking in high mountain lakes in Region 3. McCall Hatchery also received 2,000 golden trout and 4,174 grayling from Ashton Hatchery for high mountain lakes.

American Falls Hatchery transferred 81,125 catchable-size rainbow to McCall Hatchery for redistribution to local waters. A summary of fish transfers is presented in Table 4.

Stocking

McCall Hatchery stocked 38 lakes, streams, and reservoirs in Regions 2 and 3 with 90,766 catchable rainbow. This is down considerably from the 130,000 stocked in 1988. Numbers planted per site were cut back due to low catchable supply. Also, four rivers were not planted: Wildhorse River, Crooked River, Bear Creek, and Lick Creek. It should be noted that more catchables were planted out than what was transferred in.

A total of 120 high mountain lakes were stocked in 1989 with different species of trout. Westslope cutthroat trout went into 104, westslope culls into 7, Henrys Lake hybrids into 5, grayling into 3, and goldens into 1.

Of these 120 lakes, 10 were backpacked, 10 were packed in by horse, 95 were done with fixed-wing aircraft, and 13 were planted with helicopter. All of the helicopter plants were done in cooperation with, and paid for by USDA Forest Service.

The grayling went into Summit Lake and Maloney Lake in Valley County and Steamboat Lake in Shoshone County.

The golden trout went into Forage Lake in Shoshone County.

Table 3. Fish requested and produced at McCall Hatchery, 1989.

Species & size	Production goal	Actual production	Percentage of goal achieved
Cutthroat trout 1”+	272,250	374,984	138
Rainbow trout 1”+	22,500	0	0
Rainbow trout 9”+ redistribution	107,800	90,766	84

Table 4. Fish Distribution.

Species	Number	Number Produced in	Number Transferred out	Number Planted Lowland waters	Number planted high lakes
Westslope Culls	8,000				8,000
Westslope Cutthroat	311,705		85,012	97,036	98,408
Henrys Lake Cutthroat	55,279				
Grayling		4,174			4,000
Golden		2,000			2,000
Hybrids		4,080			3,300
Catchable Rainbow		81,125		90,766	

The Henry's Lake hybrids went into Louie, North Fork Twenty Mile #1, Lake Rock, Idler Creek #2, and Tule Lakes. All of these lakes are in Valley County, except for Idler Cr. #2 which is in Idaho County.

McCall Hatchery personnel also assisted Nampa Hatchery helicopter-plant brown trout into high mountain lakes.

There were no rainbow trout planted into high mountain lakes in 1989 because eggs were not available.